

REMARKS

This Application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated December 4, 2002 (Paper No. 16). Claims 10 and 13 to 23 are in the Application, of which Claims 10, 13 and 14 are independent. Claims 10, 13 to 16, 18 to 19 and 21 to 22 are being amended herein. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

By the Office Action, Claims 10 and 13 to 23 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph. Applicants have amended Claims 10, 13 to 16, 18 to 19 and 21 to 22 to even more clearly define the invention. In addition and as discussed below, Applicants submit that the features of the claims are disclosed in manner sufficient to enable a person skilled in the art to which it pertains to make and use the claimed invention. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the § 112 rejections are respectfully requested.

Generally, the present invention concerns a method of correcting image data using a server, client computer and image forming unit, as shown in Figure 1 and discussed beginning at page 6, line 10 of the present Application. More particularly, image data to be output by an image forming unit (e.g., printer 300 of Figure 1) is corrected based on correction data received from printer 300. A client computer (e.g., client 200 of Figure 1) sends a print job having the image data to a server (e.g., server 100) to be printed by printer 300. Server 100 also obtains correction data from printer 300. Printer 300 obtains the correction data by executing a calibration function, and server 100 corrects the image data of the received print job using the correction data obtained from printer 300.

As illustrated in Figure 5, and discussed in the disclosure of the invention beginning at page 16, line 12, first calibration control unit 102 of server 100 requests correction data at step 31, and controller 301 of printer 300 determines, at step 32, whether correction data is present in memory 302 of printer 300. If the correction data in memory 302 is different from that previously stored in memory 103 of server 100, steps 33 and 34 are performed such that the correction data stored in memory 302 of printer 300 is obtained by server 100 via communication between controller 301 and control unit 102, and the obtained correction data is saved in memory 103 of server 100. See page 19, lines 11 to 18 of the disclosure. As illustrated in Figure 7 and discussed at page 20, line 17, the correction data stored in memory 103 is used to produce a correction table that is used to correct the received image data.

Claims 10, 13 and 14 have been amended to even more clearly indicate that the correction data obtained by the server is obtained from the image forming unit, and the image forming unit executes a calibration function in the image forming unit to obtain the correction data.

As recited in Claims 10, 13 and 14, the correction data is automatically obtained asynchronous with respect to the time at which the printing job is received from the client. According to the disclosure of the invention, the timing for obtaining the correction data need not be synchronous with respect to the receipt of a print job from the client. According to the disclosure of the invention beginning at page 16, line 20, correction data may be obtained asynchronously using a certain elapsed time as the timing for obtaining the data, and the system clock or other timer may be used for the timing. As

shown in step 1 of Figure 2, a determination is made whether it is time to obtain the correction data. Claims 15, 18 and 21 recite that the correction data is obtained from the image forming unit at each predetermined time.

Claims 16, 19 and 22 recite that the image forming unit automatically executes the calibration function according to conditions of state parameters of the image forming unit. Support for this feature may be found in the disclosure of the invention at page 8, line 10 to page 9, line 12, for example.

Claims 17, 20 and 23 recite that judging whether or not correction data should be updated is done by comparing additional information of the latest correction data obtained by communicating with the image forming unit with additional information of the correction data already stored.

As discussed above, step 32 of Figure 5 determines whether correction data stored in memory 302 of printer 300 is different from that previously stored in the server's memory, and if so correction data is obtained by the server and saved in the server's memory in steps 33 and 34 of Figure 5. See page 19, lines 11 to 18 of the disclosure. At page 17, lines 5 to 21 of the disclosure, calibration execution date information is an example of information in addition to the correction data that may be used to decide whether the correction data stored in the server's memory is the latest correction data.

Accordingly, it is believed that the invention claimed in Claims 10 and 13 to 23 are believed to provide sufficient description to enable one of ordinary skill in the art to make and use the invention. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the § 112, first paragraph rejection of the claims is respectfully requested.

No other matters being raised, it is believed that the entire application is fully in condition for allowance, and such action is courteously solicited.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, California office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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